

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. An image-reading device comprising:
a photoelectric converting element reading a
first image from a subject copy;
a reference-white member functioning as a
10 reference white used in a white-shading correction;
reading means for reading a second image from
a constant range on a surface of said reference-white
member by using said photoelectric converting element;
averaging means for dividing image data of
15 said second image into a plurality of blocks in a sub-
scanning direction so that each of the blocks includes a
plurality of lines, and obtaining average values of
image data of said lines in said blocks respectively;
peak-value determining means for obtaining a
20 peak value of said average values; and
white-shading correcting means for performing
the white-shading correction to image data of said first
image by using said peak value as white-shading data.

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2. An image-reading device comprising:

 a photoelectric converting element reading a first image from a subject copy;

 a scanning optical system scanning said

5 subject copy by exposing said subject copy to light so as to form said first image on said photoelectric converting element;

 a reference-white plate functioning as a reference white used in a white-shading correction;

10 reading means for reading a second image from a constant range on a surface of said reference-white plate by using said photoelectric converting element;

 averaging means for dividing image data of said second image into a plurality of blocks in a sub-

15 scanning direction so that each of the blocks includes a plurality of lines, and obtaining average values of image data of said lines in said blocks respectively;

 peak-value determining means for obtaining a peak value of said average values; and

20 white-shading correcting means for performing the white-shading correction to image data of said first image by using said peak value as white-shading data.

3. An image-reading device comprising:
a subject-copy-conveying path conveying a
subject copy;
a photoelectric converting element placed on
5 said subject-copy-conveying path so as to read a first
image from a surface of said subject copy;
a read roller placed opposite said
photoelectric converting element with said subject-copy-
conveying path therebetween so as to keep a distance
10 constant between said surface of said subject copy and
said photoelectric converting element by revolving, a
surface of the read roller functioning as a reference
white used in a white-shading correction;
reading means for reading a second image from
15 a constant range on said surface of said read roller by
using said photoelectric converting element;
averaging means for dividing image data of
said second image into a plurality of blocks in a sub-
scanning direction so that each of the blocks includes a
20 plurality of lines, and obtaining average values of
image data of said lines in said blocks respectively;
peak-value determining means for obtaining a
peak value of said average values; and
white-shading correcting means for performing
25 the white-shading correction to image data of said first

image by using said peak value as white-shading data.

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4. The image-reading device as claimed in
claim 3, wherein said read roller has a reference-white
read surface formed as a part of said surface thereof,
the reference-white read surface having a center of
10 curvature on a straight line crossing a central axis of
said read roller orthogonally so that said reference-
white read surface is formed as a curved surface located
inside an outermost peripheral locus of said read roller.

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5. The image-reading device as claimed in
claim 4, wherein said constant range is at least one
20 round on said surface of said read roller, and a length
of each of said blocks in the sub-scanning direction is
smaller than a length of said reference-white read
surface.

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6. The image-reading device as claimed in
claim 3, wherein said constant range is at least one
round on said surface of said read roller.

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7. The image-reading device as claimed in
claim 3, wherein said constant range is a range
10 exceeding one round on said surface of said read roller;
and

a length of each of said blocks in the sub-
scanning direction is so set that, when said constant
range is divided into said blocks, a fractional block is
15 created in each round of said constant range.

20 8. The image-reading device as claimed in
claim 1, wherein said averaging means obtains average
values of image data of at least every second line of
said lines in said blocks respectively.

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9. The image-reading device as claimed in
claim 1, wherein said averaging means obtains moving
averages of image data of respective sets of lines in
said second image, instead of obtaining the average
5 values of the image data of said lines in said blocks
respectively; and

 said peak-value determining means obtains a
peak value of said moving average values.

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10. The image-reading device as claimed in
claim 9, wherein said averaging means obtains the moving
15 averages by moving first lines of the respective sets
from each other by one line.

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11. An image-forming device comprising:
 an image-reading device including:
 a photoelectric converting element reading a
 first image from a subject copy;
25 a reference-white member functioning as a

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reference white used in a white-shading correction;

reading means for reading a second image from a constant range on a surface of said reference-white member by using said photoelectric converting element;

5 averaging means for dividing image data of said second image into a plurality of blocks in a sub-scanning direction so that each of the blocks includes a plurality of lines, and obtaining average values of image data of said lines in said blocks respectively;

10 peak-value determining means for obtaining a peak value of said average values; and

white-shading correcting means for performing the white-shading correction to image data of said first image by using said peak value as white-shading data,

15 wherein an image is formed on a sheet according to the image data of said first image.

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12. An image-forming device comprising:

an image-reading device including:

a photoelectric converting element reading a first image from a subject copy;

25 a scanning optical system scanning said

subject copy by exposing said subject copy to light so as to form said first image on said photoelectric converting element;

5 a reference-white plate functioning as a reference white used in a white-shading correction; reading means for reading a second image from a constant range on a surface of said reference-white plate by using said photoelectric converting element; averaging means for dividing image data of 10 said second image into a plurality of blocks in a sub-scanning direction so that each of the blocks includes a plurality of lines, and obtaining average values of image data of said lines in said blocks respectively; peak-value determining means for obtaining a 15 peak value of said average values; and white-shading correcting means for performing the white-shading correction to image data of said first image by using said peak value as white-shading data, wherein an image is formed on a sheet 20 according to the image data of said first image.

25 13. An image-forming device comprising:

an image-reading device including:
a subject-copy-conveying path conveying a
subject copy;
a photoelectric converting element placed on
5 said subject-copy-conveying path so as to read a first
image from a surface of said subject copy;
a read roller placed opposite said
photoelectric converting element with said subject-copy-
conveying path therebetween so as to keep a distance
10 constant between said surface of said subject copy and
said photoelectric converting element by revolving, a
surface of the read roller functioning as a reference
white used in a white-shading correction;
reading means for reading a second image from
15 a constant range on said surface of said read roller by
using said photoelectric converting element;
averaging means for dividing image data of
said second image into a plurality of blocks in a sub-
scanning direction so that each of the blocks includes a
20 plurality of lines, and obtaining average values of
image data of said lines in said blocks respectively;
peak-value determining means for obtaining a
peak value of said average values; and
white-shading correcting means for performing
25 the white-shading correction to image data of said first

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image by using said peak value as white-shading data,
wherein an image is formed on a sheet
according to the image data of said first image.

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14. An image-reading device comprising:
a photoelectric converting element reading a
10 first image from a subject copy;
a reference-white member functioning as a
reference white used in a white-shading correction;
an image-reading unit reading a second image
from a constant range on a surface of said reference-
15 white member by using said photoelectric converting
element;
an average-value circuit dividing image data
of said second image into a plurality of blocks in a
sub-scanning direction so that each of the blocks
20 includes a plurality of lines, and obtaining average
values of image data of said lines in said blocks
respectively;
a peak-value circuit obtaining a peak value of
said average values; and
25 a white-shading calculating circuit performing

the white-shading correction to image data of said first image by using said peak value as white-shading data.

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15. An image-reading device comprising:
 - a photoelectric converting element reading a first image from a subject copy;
 - 10 a scanning optical system scanning said subject copy by exposing said subject copy to light so as to form said first image on said photoelectric converting element;
 - a reference-white plate functioning as a reference white used in a white-shading correction;
 - 15 an image-reading unit reading a second image from a constant range on a surface of said reference-white plate by using said photoelectric converting element;
 - 20 an average-value circuit dividing image data of said second image into a plurality of blocks in a sub-scanning direction so that each of the blocks includes a plurality of lines, and obtaining average values of image data of said lines in said blocks
 - 25 respectively;

a peak-value circuit obtaining a peak value of
said average values; and

a white-shading calculating circuit performing
the white-shading correction to image data of said first
5 image by using said peak value as white-shading data.

10 16.. An image-reading device comprising:
 a subject-copy-conveying path conveying a
 subject copy;
 a photoelectric converting element placed on
 said subject-copy-conveying path so as to read a first
15 image from a surface of said subject copy;
 a read roller placed opposite said
 photoelectric converting element with said subject-copy-
 conveying path therebetween so as to keep a distance
 constant between said surface of said subject copy and
20 said photoelectric converting element by revolving, a
 surface of the read roller functioning as a reference
 white used in a white-shading correction;
 an image-reading unit reading a second image
 from a constant range on said surface of said read
25 roller by using said photoelectric converting element;

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an average-value circuit dividing image data of said second image into a plurality of blocks in a sub-scanning direction so that each of the blocks includes a plurality of lines, and obtaining average 5 values of image data of said lines in said blocks respectively;

a peak-value circuit obtaining a peak value of said average values; and

10 a white-shading calculating circuit performing the white-shading correction to image data of said first image by using said peak value as white-shading data.

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17. The image-reading device as claimed in claim 16, wherein said read roller has a reference-white read surface formed as a part of said surface thereof, the reference-white read surface having a center of 20 curvature on a straight line crossing a central axis of said read roller orthogonally so that said reference-white read surface is formed as a curved surface located inside an outermost peripheral locus of said read roller.

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18. The image-reading device as claimed in
claim 17, wherein said constant range is at least one
round on said surface of said read roller, and a length
of each of said blocks in the sub-scanning direction is
5 smaller than a length of said reference-white read
surface.

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19. The image-reading device as claimed in
claim 16, wherein said constant range is at least one
round on said surface of said read roller.

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20. The image-reading device as claimed in
claim 16, wherein said constant range is a range
20 exceeding one round on said surface of said read roller;
and

25 a length of each of said blocks in the sub-
scanning direction is so set that, when said constant
range is divided into said blocks, a fractional block is
created in each round of said constant range.

21. The image-reading device as claimed in
claim 14, wherein said average-value circuit obtains
average values of image data of at least every second
line of said lines in said blocks respectively.

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22. The image-reading device as claimed in
10 claim 14, wherein said average-value circuit obtains
moving averages of image data of respective sets of
lines in said second image, instead of obtaining the
average values of the image data of said lines in said
blocks respectively; and
15 said peak-value circuit obtains a peak value
of said moving average values.

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23. The image-reading device as claimed in
claim 22, wherein said average-value circuit obtains the
moving averages by moving first lines of the respective
sets from each other by one line.

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24. An image-forming device comprising:
an image-reading device including:
a photoelectric converting element reading a
first image from a subject copy;
5 a reference-white member functioning as a
reference white used in a white-shading correction;
an image-reading unit reading a second image
from a constant range on a surface of said reference-
white member by using said photoelectric converting
10 element;
an average-value circuit dividing image data
of said second image into a plurality of blocks in a
sub-scanning direction so that each of the blocks
includes a plurality of lines, and obtaining average
15 values of image data of said lines in said blocks
respectively;
a peak-value circuit obtaining a peak value of
said average values; and
a white-shading calculating circuit performing
20 the white-shading correction to image data of said first
image by using said peak value as white-shading data,
wherein an image is formed on a sheet
according to the image data of said first image.

25. An image-forming device comprising:
an image-reading device including:
a photoelectric converting element reading a
first image from a subject copy;
5 a scanning optical system scanning said
subject copy by exposing said subject copy to light so
as to form said first image on said photoelectric
converting element;
a reference-white plate functioning as a
10 reference white used in a white-shading correction;
an image-reading unit reading a second image
from a constant range on a surface of said reference-
white plate by using said photoelectric converting
element;
15 an average-value circuit dividing image data
of said second image into a plurality of blocks in a
sub-scanning direction so that each of the blocks
includes a plurality of lines, and obtaining average
values of image data of said lines in said blocks
20 respectively;
a peak-value circuit obtaining a peak value of
said average values; and
a white-shading calculating circuit performing
the white-shading correction to image data of said first
25 image by using said peak value as white-shading data,

wherein an image is formed on a sheet according to the image data of said first image.

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26. An image-forming device comprising:
an image-reading device including:
a subject-copy-conveying path conveying a
10 subject copy;
a photoelectric converting element placed on
said subject-copy-conveying path so as to read a first
image from a surface of said subject copy;
a read roller placed opposite said
15 photoelectric converting element with said subject-copy-
conveying path therebetween so as to keep a distance
constant between said surface of said subject copy and
said photoelectric converting element by revolving, a
surface of the read roller functioning as a reference
20 white used in a white-shading correction;
an image-reading unit reading a second image
from a constant range on said surface of said read
roller by using said photoelectric converting element;
an average-value circuit dividing image data
25 of said second image into a plurality of blocks in a

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sub-scanning direction so that each of the blocks includes a plurality of lines, and obtaining average values of image data of said lines in said blocks respectively;

5 a peak-value circuit obtaining a peak value of said average values; and

a white-shading calculating circuit performing the white-shading correction to image data of said first image by using said peak value as white-shading data,

10 wherein an image is formed on a sheet according to the image data of said first image.

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27. A method of creating reference-white data comprising:

the reading step of reading an image from a constant range on a surface of a reference-white member 20 by using a photoelectric converting element, the reference-white member functioning as a reference white used in a white-shading correction;

the averaging step of dividing image data of said image into a plurality of blocks in a sub-scanning 25 direction so that each of the blocks includes a

plurality of lines, and obtaining average values of image data of said lines in said blocks respectively; and

the peak-value determining step of obtaining a
5 peak value of said average values so as to create white-shading data.

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28. The method as claimed in claim 27, wherein said reading step reads an image from a constant range on a surface of a revolving read roller as said reference-white member, the revolving read roller being
15 placed opposite said photoelectric converting element, and said constant range is at least one round on said surface of said revolving read roller.

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29. The method as claimed in claim 27, wherein said reading step reads an image from a constant range on a surface of a revolving read roller as said
25 reference-white member, the revolving read roller being

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placed opposite said photoelectric converting element,
and the constant range being a range exceeding one round
on said surface of said revolving read roller; and
said averaging step sets a length of each of
5 said blocks in the sub-scanning direction so that, when
said constant range is divided into said blocks, a
fractional block is created in each round of said
constant range.

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30. The method as claimed in claim 27,
wherein said reading step reads an image from a constant
15 range on a surface of a revolving read roller as said
reference-white member, the revolving read roller being
placed opposite said photoelectric converting element
and having a reference-white read surface formed as a
part of said surface thereof, the reference-white read
20 surface having a center of curvature on a straight line
crossing a central axis of said revolving read roller
orthogonally so that said reference-white read surface
is formed as a curved surface located inside an
outermost peripheral locus of said revolving read roller,
25 and the constant range being at least one round on said

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surface of said revolving read roller; and

 said averaging step sets a length of each of
 said blocks in the sub-scanning direction smaller than a
 length of said reference-white read surface.

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31. The method as claimed in claim 27,

10 wherein said averaging step obtains average values of
 image data of at least every second line of said lines
 in said blocks respectively.

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32. The method as claimed in claim 27,

 wherein said averaging step obtains moving averages of
 image data of respective sets of lines in said image,
20 instead of obtaining the average values of the image
 data of said lines in said blocks respectively; and
 said peak-value determining step obtains a
 peak value of said moving average values.

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33. The method as claimed in claim 32, wherein said averaging step obtains the moving averages by moving first lines of the respective sets from each other by one line.